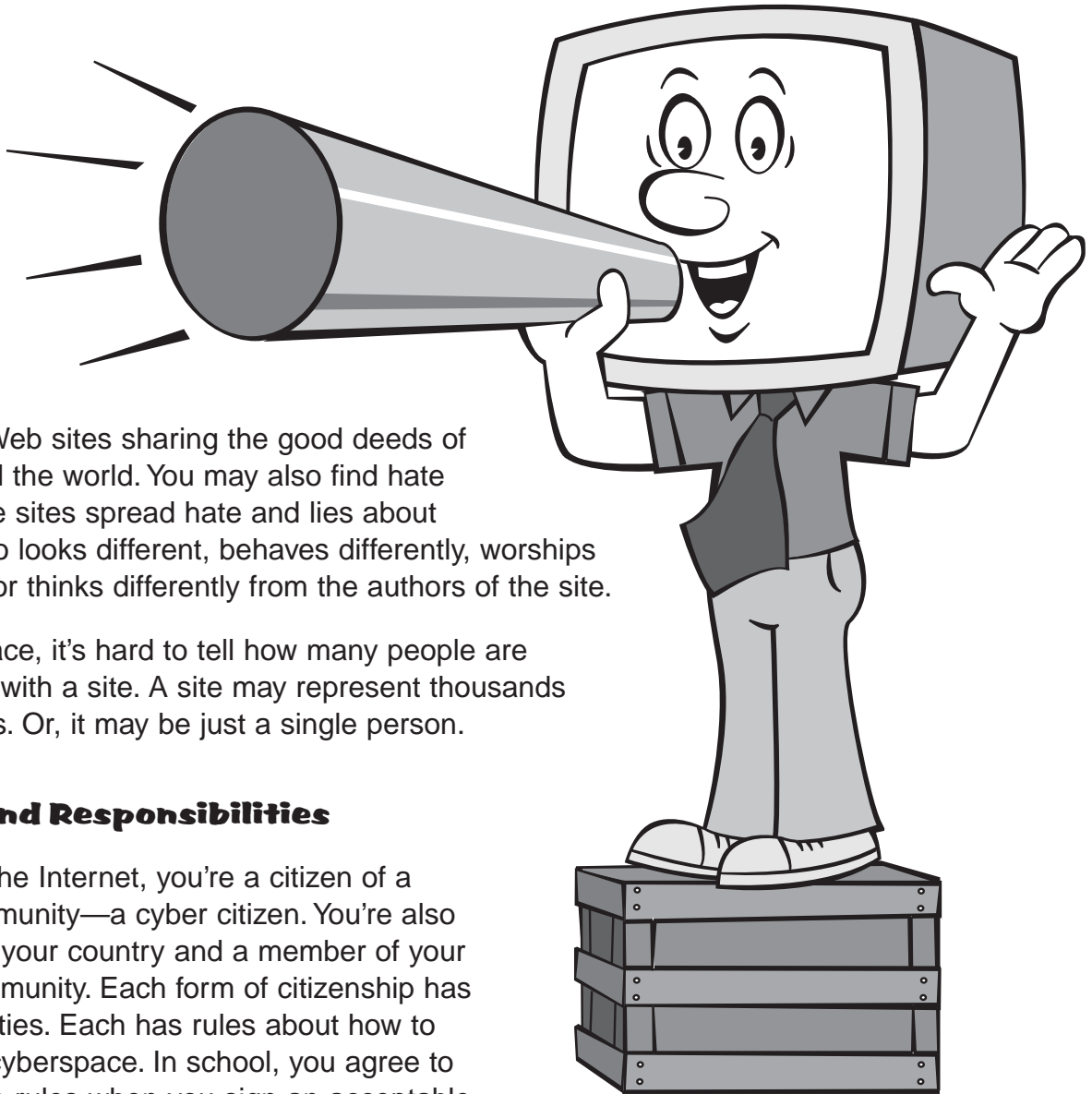


Name _____ Date _____

Power and Responsibility

The Power to Be Heard

One hundred years ago, letters took months to travel across the ocean. Today, anyone using the Internet can instantly reach others around the world. The Internet can be used to share knowledge that makes people's lives better. Unfortunately, its power can also be used to spread lies and hate.



You'll find Web sites sharing the good deeds of kids around the world. You may also find hate sites. These sites spread hate and lies about anyone who looks different, behaves differently, worships differently, or thinks differently from the authors of the site.

In cyberspace, it's hard to tell how many people are associated with a site. A site may represent thousands of members. Or, it may be just a single person.

Rights and Responsibilities

If you use the Internet, you're a citizen of a global community—a cyber citizen. You're also a citizen of your country and a member of your school community. Each form of citizenship has responsibilities. Each has rules about how to behave in cyberspace. In school, you agree to follow those rules when you sign an acceptable use contract.

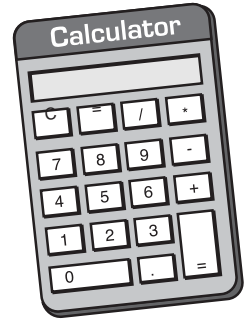
Imagine that each situation below is about a student in your school. Is their behavior acceptable under your school's Acceptable Use Policy? Explain your answers.

Duane sends an E-mail from school to his friend in another school. In it, he repeats a joke containing rude language that he heard on a TV show.



Gotta joke for ya!

Anthony has started a math tutoring business. Knowing that many teachers have younger children, he advertises his services and fees on a personal Web page that is displayed only on the school network.



Tutor for Hire

Julia gets angry when Jennifer, in a crowded lunchroom, repeats something Julia told her privately. Julia goes home and writes Jennifer a threatening E-mail intended to scare her.



Randy, playing a joke, creates an official looking E-mail saying tomorrow is a half-day and sends it to the whole school.

